

7 to 9. Also disclosed is an aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory including 3 to 15% by weight based on the total weight of the refractory of a carbon black material having a specific surface area according to a nitrogen adsorption method of 10 to 30 m²/g. The refractory may contain 0.02 to 0.03% by weight of β -naphthalenesulfonic acid-formaldehyde condensate sodium salt per 1% of the carbon black material. The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory is excellent in corrosion resistance and spalling resistance.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice.

By the present Preliminary Amendment the claims have been amended to no longer recite any multiple dependencies. Further, the subject matter of the cancelled multiple dependencies is now set forth in new dependent Claims 7-11.

The Abstract has also been amended by the present response and no longer recite any legal phraseology.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No:

Amendment Filed on:

8-24-2001

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 5 and 6 as follows.

--5. (Amended) The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory according to claim 3 [or 4], wherein ultrafine powder having a particle diameter of 10 μ m or less occupies 2 to 15% by weight of the remainder of the refractory except for the carbon black material and the β -naphthalenesulfonic acid-formaldehyde condensate sodium salt.

6. (Amended) The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 5], wherein the refractory has an apparent porosity after drying of 13.0% or less.--

Claims 7-12 (New).

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the abstract in its entirety and insert therefor the following.

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory [comprising] including a refractory material composed of 50 to 80% by weight of refractory aggregate having a particle diameter of greater than 45 μ m and 20 to 50% by weight of fine powder having a particle diameter of 45 μ m or less, wherein 15 to 60% by weight of the fine powder is a

carbon black material of pH 7 to 9. Also disclosed is an aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory [comprising] including 3 to 15% by weight based on the total weight of the refractory of a carbon black material having a specific surface area according to a nitrogen adsorption method of 10 to 30 m²/g. The refractory may contain 0.02 to 0.03% by weight of β -naphthalenesulfonic acid-formaldehyde condensate sodium salt per 1% of the carbon black material. The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory is excellent in corrosion resistance and spalling resistance. --